

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 NEAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
NSC-05 OES-06 PM-04 ERDA-05 NRC-05 /081 W
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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2350
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: TECH, IN, US
SUBJECT: M. V. KAMATH ON U.S. FUEL DELIVERIES TO TARAPUR

1. APRIL 1 ISSUE OF THE "TIMES OF INDIA" CARRIES A REPORT BY ITS WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT, M.V. KAMATH, SAYING THAT THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION MAY SOON SOFTEN ITS STAND ON THE RELEASE OF NUCLEAR FUEL FOR TARAPUR. CITING "SIGNALS BEING PICKED UP BY EMBASSY SOURCES", KAMATH WROTE THAT THE 12 TONS OF FUEL DUE TO BE SENT BY SEA IN LATE FEBRUARY, "...BUT... HELD BACK PENDING RESOLUTION OF THE DISPUTE OVER WHAT CONTROLS SHOULD BE CLAMPED DOWN ON INDIA'S NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS," MAY BE RELEASED SOON AFTER PRESIDENT CARTER ISSUES HIS ADMINISTRATION'S APRIL 20 POLICY STATEMENT ON THE WHOLE QUESTION OF FUEL SUPPLY AND REPROCESSING. HE OBSERVED THAT TARAPUR WOULD NEED THE FUEL BY THE THIRD WEEK OF APRIL, THUS REQUIRING ITS SHIPMENT BY AIR, AT A COST OF DOLS 80,000 RATHER THAN BY SEA AT A COST OF DOLS 6,000.

2. KAMATH ALSO WROTE THAT THE QUESTION OF REPROCESSING SPENT FUEL HAD ASSUMED IMMEDIATE IMPORTANCE SINCE THE U.S. WILL NEITHER ALLOW INDIA TO REPROCESS NOR AGREE TO TAKE BACK THE FUEL FOR REPROCESSING IN THE U.S. HE NOTED THAT JAPAN HAD FACED A SIMILAR
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PROBLEM, AND FINALLY RECEIVED U.S. PERMISSION TO SEND SPENT FUEL TO ENGLAND. KAMATH ADDED THAT IT WAS NOT CLEAR HOW LONG INDIA COULD STORE SPENT FUEL WITHOUT ENCOUNTERING STORAGE PROBLEMS.

3. KAMATH NOTED THAT "OFFICIALS AT THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COUNCIL ARE TRYING TO FIGURE OUT" THE LONG-TERM FUTURE OF INDIA'S NUCLEAR PROGRAM. HE REPORTED THEY ARE AWARE OF A.B. VAJPAYEE'S STATEMENTS

AS JAN SANGH LEADER, THAT INDIA MUST BE WILLING TO PERFORM ATMOS-
PHRIC TESTS IF NECESSARY WERE NATIONAL SECURITY IN DANGER.

4. THE REPORT DID NOT APPEAR IN ANY OTHER NEWSPAPER.
SCHNEIDER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 01-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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